

APPLICANTS: Lee et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/503,596

compound that reduces expression of AFABP, wherein said AFABP comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 and wherein a reduction in AFABP expression inhibits formation of an atherosclerotic lesion and wherein said compound comprises an nucleic acid comprising 10-100 nucleotides, the sequence of said nucleotides being complementary to a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

C1
C2 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said antisense nucleic acid is a DNA operatively linked to a macrophage-specific promoter, wherein transcription of said DNA yields nucleic acid product which is complementary to an mRNA encoding an AFABP polypeptide.

C3 12. A method of inhibiting differentiation of a macrophage into a foam cell, comprising contacting said macrophage with an inhibitor of AFABP expression, wherein said AFABP comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 and wherein a reduction in AFABP expression inhibits differentiation of a macrophage into a foam cell and wherein said compound comprises an nucleic acid comprising 10-100 nucleotides, the sequence of said nucleotides being complementary to a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Add new claims 24-25.

C4 24. (new) A method of inhibiting differentiation of a macrophage into a foam cell, comprising contacting said macrophage with an inhibitor of AFABP expression, wherein a reduction in AFABP expression inhibits differentiation of a macrophage into a foam cell and wherein said inhibitor comprises a compound that binds to a cis-acting regulatory sequence of

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AFABP, said inhibitor comprising a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPAR γ) or peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor alpha (PPAR α) compound.

25. (new) A method of inhibiting formation of an atherosclerotic lesion comprising administering to a mammal a compound that reduces expression of AFABP, wherein said inhibitor comprises a compound that binds to a cis-acting regulatory sequence of AFABP, said inhibitor comprising a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPAR γ) or peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor alpha (PPAR α) compound.